

SECRET

RINCPHASE DEBRIEFING 4 JANUARY 1952

NEA/2

Time: 1100-1240

I Mufti of Jerusalem

1. Mufti's close friends and backers

- a) Ahmad Beik Dahouk, Lebanese Minister to France and chairman of the Banque de Syrie.
- b) Abu Irim SIRASHI (SIRARI), from Beirut, had large real estate interests in Berlin before and during WW II, now in Beirut.
- c) Issa Beik BARNISH, is either Mufti's No. 1 man or is himself really running the show, is always with the Mufti.
- d) Rashid KHALIDI, has doctorate of law, formerly an English administrator in Palestine, married sister of Jamid Ibn Abu SA'UD (director of Arab Bank in Cairo), applied for U.S. visa in Cairo and was refused (date unknown).

II [] reported that AYDAH, MAYASSI, and AHMAD are all Shi'ah fanatics who come from the Lebanon-Palestine border area. These people are the backbone of the smugglers and in all probability do operations for Mufti. [] also reported that Mufti told him he organized holy war fighters. [] is reported to carry one or more pistols and is an excellent shot. [] believes Mufti does not have any German advisors of his under German control, as German money was paid to Mufti's aides during WW II and was not accepted by the Mufti himself. One Tassef Al RAHRI broadcast from Germany during WW II to the Arab countries in the Mufti's name without his consent. RAHRI then went to Paris where he was bought by the French and established the newspaper El Arab. RAHRI comes from Baghdad where he was "kicked out". Rubs elbows with the "big shots" coming to Paris. During the formation of the Moslem League he tried to get members and money for it. Then the French Government sent him on tour throughout the Arab-Moslem world. He returned from Karachi as the Moslem League agent from Paris. He is afraid of the Mufti.

III [] got Dr. Mehdi Benaboud's address through the vice consul of the Lebanese Legation, and the Egyptian Embassy. [] is meeting Benaboud at 1730 4 January 52 at his home, 1613 Harvard St., Apt. 414, tel: 7845. [] believes he may have met Benaboud in Paris in connection with the purchase of surplus beds and medical supplies by Benaboud for a hospital in Fes (circa '45). Benaboud is meeting with a State Department representative just prior to his meeting with [].

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